Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 IO-13 DHA-02 /082 W

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R 031453Z MAR 77 FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5119 INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN AMEMBASSY CAIRO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 1556

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: IS, JO, PDEV, PFOR

SUBJECT: KNESSET MOTIONS ON MES'HA REBUTTED BY GALILI

REF: TEL AVIV 1424

- 1. AN ESTIMATED CROWD OF FIVE THOUSAND PERSONS ATTENDED A GUSH EMUNIM RALLY MARCH 1 TO DEMONSTRATE SUPPORT FOR THE RIGHT OF JEWS TO SETTLE "WHEREVER THEY WISH IN ERETZ ISRAEL." ONE MENBER OF THE SETTLEMENT NUCLEUS WHICH HOPES TO LIVE AT MES'HA TOLD THE CROWD THAT THE NEW GOVERNMENT-APPROVED SETTLEMENT WILL BE ESTABLISHED WITHIN A MONTH, CITING TALKS BETWEEN GUSH EMUNIM REPRESENTATIVES AND MINISTER GALILI, CHAIRMAN OF THE SETTLEMENT COMMITTEE. GALILI, QUESTIONED BY THE JERUSALEM POST, SAID THAT NO PROMISE HAS BEEN GIVEN (AS TO WHEN THE SETTLEMENT WOULD BE ESTABLISHED) AND DECLINED TO ANSWER FURTHER QUESTIONS.
- 2. THREE MOTIONS REGARDING MES'HA WERE SUBMITTED TO THE KNESSET MARCH 2: BY GEULA COHEN (LIKUD), YEHUDA BEN-MEIR (NRP), AND MEIR PA'IL (MOKED). COHEN CHARGED UNCLASSIFIED

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THE GOVERNMENT WITH HESITATION IN ENCOURAGING NEW SETTLEMENTS, AND SAID THAT THE SUPPOSED DIFFICULTY IN ACQUIRING SUFFICIENT LAND AT MES'HA WAS AN ALIBI. BENMEIR SAID THAT IT IS CLEAR THAT MOST ISRAELIS, REGARDLESS OF PARTY AFFILIATION, FAVOR FREE JEWISH SETTLEMENT ANYWHERE IN ERETZ ISRAEL, AND LABELLED THE GOVERNMENT AS A PRISONER OF MAPAM AND OTHER LEFTIST MINORITY CIRCLES.

PA'IL CONGRATULATED THE GOVERNMENT FOR CHASING THE SETTLERS FROM MES'HA AND FAVORED EVACUATION OF THE GUSH EMUNIM SETTLEMENTS AT OFRA AND KADDOUM.

3. REPLYING FOR THE GOVERNMENT, MINISTER GALILI URGED THE KNESSET NOT TO FALL PREY TO THE PATHOLOGICAL FEARS AND SUSPICIONS OF SOME LIKUD MK'S WHO ACCUSE THE GOVERNMENT OF RENEGING ON ITS APPROVAL OF JEWISH SETTLEMENT AT MES'HA. HE SAID THAT SINCE THE 1967 WAR, ONE HUNDRED AND TWELVE NEW SETTLEMENTS HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED, SEVENTY-SIX OF THEM BEYOND THE "GREEN LINE." GALILI HOPED THAT THE GUSH EMUNIM WOULD NOT ATTEMPT ANY NEW SETTLEMENT VENTURES BECAUSE "THESE DEMONSTRATIONS CAN CAUSE HARM TO THE NATION."

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Message Attributes

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